National executive meeting on BJP attended by Defence personnel

818. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether two high ranking defence personnel, one Lt. General and one Air Vice-Marshall attended the meeting of the BJP National Executive on Monday, May 31, 1999; and

(b) if so, in what capacity and circumstances?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Presentations were made by the senior defence personnel before various fora including the meeting referred to in the question to facilitate an understanding and accurate assessment, of the complexity and the efficacy of the armed forces operations launched to evict Pakistani intruders in Kargil.

Attack on Army camps

819. SHRI V.N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for the increased attacks by militants on Army camps in Jammu & Kashmir; and

(b) why no preventive measures were taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The following seem to be the main factors behind the recent attakes by the millitants on army camps etc. in J&K:—

(a) Growing frustration among the millitants due to lack of any tangible success.

(b) Increased infiltration during Kargil conflict, when some Army units had to be redeployed for operations.

(c) Qualitative escalation in militancy due to greater presence of foreign mercenaries, who are trained by Pak ISI/Army and are better equipped.

(d) Suicidal missions to gain media attention.

(e) Efforts to generate a fear psychosis among the local population.

Adequate preventive measures are taken against such threats in a militancy infested areas by greater vigil, strengthening of the intelligence system and evolving new tactics to tackle such situations. However, a few incidents of this nature are not unexpected in such high militancy situations. Nevertheless, all incidents of this kind are thoroughly investigated and measures instituted in order to reduce such incidents to the minimum possible.

Civil Defence Infrastructure for tackling possible nuclear attack

820. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal for establishment civil defence infrastructure required to tackle possible nuclear attack in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how much it is likely to cost; and

(d) by when it is going to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI): (a) to (d) A model plan in connection with this matter was sent to the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi. According to them, the implementation of the plan is estimated to cost Rs. 400 crores approximately. The plan is under their consideration at present.

Bharat Ratna for Mataji Nirmala Devi

†821. SHRI RAMJI LAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that most revered Mataji Nirmala Devi, the founder Chairperson of Vishwa Nirmala Dharma and Life Internal Trust, has worked for the solution of crucial, individual and common problems of human life, by way of Sahaj Yoga in about 80 countries of the world by awakening of Kundalani;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Government are considering to confer the highest Honour Bharat Ratna on the most

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.